



**Maryland Department of Transportation**  
The Secretary's Office

October 22, 2009

**Martin O'Malley**  
Governor

**Anthony G. Brown**  
Lt. Governor

**Beverley K. Swaim-Staley**  
Secretary

**Harold M. Bartlett**  
Deputy Secretary

The Honorable Phil Andrews  
President, Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville MD 20850

Dear Council President Andrews:

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) was requested by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the City of Gaithersburg to analyze several alignment alternatives to the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) that is currently undergoing study as part of the I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Assessment. These alignment alternatives include shifts to service the Life Sciences Center (LSC) in the Gaithersburg West Master Plan area of Montgomery County and the Crown Farm within the City of Gaithersburg. Preliminary results of our study are now available. Because we understand the findings may be relevant to your consideration of the proposed Gaithersburg West Master Plan we are pleased to provide the following for your consideration.

The major assumptions made for this analysis are as follows:

- 7.2A Socioeconomic forecast;
- Capital costs in 2007 dollars;
- Proposed stations at LSC Central, LSC West and LSC Belward only (no DANAC station); and,
- Regional model used in this analysis is the same that was used for the Alternatives Analysis/ Environmental Assessment (May 2009).

It is important to note that these assumptions may change as further analysis of the CCT is conducted in the context of obtaining federal environmental and funding approvals.

The MTA found that both the LSC and Crown Farm re-alignments have a strongly positive impact on the CCT's ridership and cost effectiveness. Using the same methodology used on the currently approved Master Plan alignment in the I-270/US 15 study, estimated increases in daily guideway boardings range from approximately 15 to 40 percent.

My telephone number is \_\_\_\_\_  
Toll Free Number 1-888-713-1414 TTY Users Call Via MD Relay  
7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076

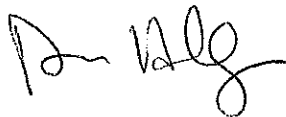
The Honorable Phil Andrews  
Page Two

While capital costs increased approximately 11 to 16 percent reflecting the increase in distance of these alignments over the current Master Plan alignment, this is more than offset by increases in ridership and transportation system user benefits which result in a strongly positive impact on the project's cost effectiveness. As you may know, cost effectiveness is a critical aspect of the project's competitiveness for federal funds. In particular, with the alignment shifts and proposed land uses we see a significant improvement in the overall cost effectiveness rating of the alternatives. This is in contrast to the current master plan where, generally speaking, we would likely see a lower overall cost effectiveness rating by the Federal Transit Administration thereby precluding some options.

Timely approval of the Gaithersburg West Master Plan, as proposed by the Planning Board, will allow MTA to initiate the process of seeking federal approval for the modified alignment, and thereby maintain the current schedule for the CCT.

Thank you for your continued support of the CCT and other transit initiatives in Montgomery County. If you have any questions regarding these preliminary results, do not hesitate to contact me at 410-865-1275, toll-free at 888-713-1414 or via email at [dhalligan@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:dhalligan@mdot.state.md.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Halligan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Donald A. Halligan, Director  
Office of Planning and Capital Programming

cc: Mr. Harold Bartlett, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation  
The Honorable Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive  
Mr. Rick Kiegel, Corridor Cities Transitway Project Manager, Office of Planning,  
Maryland Transit Administration  
Ms. Diane Ratcliff, Director, Office of Planning, Maryland Transit Administration  
Ms. Beverley Swaim-Staley, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation